

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#66-21-35 Building Date: c.1940

Building Name: Little Tavern Shops Restaurant

Location: 7413 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, Maryland

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description:

The College Park Little Tavern Shops restaurant is located at the southeast corner of the Baltimore Avenue/Lehigh Road intersection, in the heart of the College Park commercial district. The small, one story eatery retains much of its original character. It is designed in the Old English Cottage style, using materials which were considered "modern" at the time: tile, vitrolite, formica, plate glass, metal alloys and neon signage. Like all Little Tavern Shops, this restaurant features a green tiled, side-facing gable roof, and is topped with a neon sign. A second neon sign is mounted atop a shed dormer on the front roof plane. The building is clad in white enamel panels, with green and white decorative quoining. The main entry is located on the west elevation and features a steel and glass door, with an awning above. Three large plate glass windows, one on the west elevation and two on the north, are also adorned with awnings.

Significance:

The College Park Little Tavern Shops restaurant was opened in the late 1930s and is significant as part of an early neighborhood restaurant chain and a precursor to today's fast food industry. Architecturally, it represents an early example of the trend towards symbolic restaurant design. The restaurant is also a reflection of College Park's emergence as a auto-related commercial center in the early- to mid-twentieth century. It is the only Little Tavern Shops restaurant in Prince George's County.

Acreage: 5076 square feet.

PG#66-21-35 - Little Tavern Shops Restaurant

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographical Organization:

2.) Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

12.) Modern Period

Historic Period Themes:

2.) Architecture, landscape Architecture and Community Planning

3.) Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Restaurant

Known Design Source: Prototype design for Little Tavern Shops chain.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC SITES

Survey No. PG #66-21-35

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Little Tavern Shops Restaurant

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 7413 Baltimore Avenue (U.S. Route 1) not for publication

city, town College Park vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> X </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> X </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> X </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> X </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Sterling J. Byrd

street & number P.O. Box 488 telephone no.:

city, town College Park state and zip code MD 20740

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5634

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 827

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG #66-21-35

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The College Park Little Tavern Shops restaurant is located at the southeast corner of the Baltimore Avenue/Lehigh Road intersection, in the heart of the College Park commercial district. The small, one story eatery retains much of its original character. It is designed in the Old English Cottage style, using materials which were considered "modern" at the time: tile, vitrolite, formica, plate glass, metal alloys and neon signage. Like all Little Tavern Shops, this restaurant features a green tiled, side-facing gable roof, and is topped with a neon sign. A second neon sign is mounted atop a shed dormer on the front roof plane. The building is clad in white enamel panels, with green and white decorative quoining. The main entry is located on the west elevation and features a steel and glass door, with an awning above. Three large plate glass windows, one on the west elevation and two on the north, are also adorned with awnings.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG #66-21-35

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The College Park Little Tavern Shops restaurant was opened in the late 1930s and is significant as part of an early neighborhood restaurant chain and a precursor to today's fast food industry. Architecturally, it represents an early example of the trend towards symbolic restaurant design. The restaurant is also a reflection of College Park's emergence as a auto-related commercial center in the early- to mid-twentieth century. It is the only Little Tavern Shops restaurant in Prince George's County.

History and Support.

The Little Tavern Shops chain was begun in 1927 by Harry Duncan, originally of Kentucky. Duncan established the chain in the Baltimore/Washington area in order to capitalize on the rapidly growing work force in the area. This early form of neighborhood restaurant, from which today's fast food industry evolved, proved to be a successful concept. By the late 1920s and early 1930s, urban centers had filled with single men who had migrated there in search of work opportunities. Because these men could not often get a decent lunchtime meal at home, there was a need for restaurants which served fast, inexpensive meals. The Little Taverns Shops was one of the first restaurant chains to meet this need.

The earliest Little Tavern Shops were built in the urban centers of Washington and Baltimore. As suburban growth progressed, and as automobile use increased in the 1930s and 1940s, they became increasingly common in the outlying areas. At one time, there were over fifty Little Tavern Shops in the Washington/Baltimore area. Today, there are approximately twenty still in operation. In the Washington area, there are four in the District of Columbia, two in Arlington, and one each in

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG #66-21-35

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5076 sq ftQuadrangle name Washington EastQuadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

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Zone Easting NorthingB

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Hannah L. Kelly's subdivision of College Park, Square 28, Lots 13, 14 and 15.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert D. Rivers, Preservation Plannerorganization Prince George's County
Historic Preservation Commissiondate June 1993street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drivetelephone (301) 952-4609city or town Upper Marlborostate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
410-327-1500

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Section 8 Page 2

Alexandria, Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton. The College Park restaurant is the only one in Prince George's County.

The College Park restaurant opened in the late 1930s. Like all other Little Tavern Shops, it utilized a symbolic architectural prototype. The green tiled roof and white exterior walls became the identifying characteristics of the chain, meant to be a familiar image to passing motorists. This design is one of the earliest examples of what would become an increasingly popular trend towards identifiable and symbolic restaurant architecture. It is similar in concept to the prototypical designs of such contemporary restaurant chains as White Castle and Howard Johnson's, as well as nearly every major fast food chain today. Not only was the design of the Little Tavern Shops chain meant to be easily identifiable, it had other connotations as well. The Old English Cottage style was utilized in order to be reminiscent of an old english tavern, conveying a pleasant, familiar environment. Additionally, the design utilizes the newer technology and materials of the Moderne era in order to evoke the notions of speed and efficiency associated with fast, inexpensive meals.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCESSurvey No. 66-21-35

Prince George's County Land Records

Rivers, Robert, Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory
Form - Bethesda Little Tavern Shops Restaurant (M:35-14-3), March, 1992.

Interview with Alfred Wroy, Regional Supervisor, Little Tavern Shops
Restaurants, February, 1992.

Little Tavern Shops Restaurant
7413 Baltimore Avenue, College Park

P.G. #66-21-35

5634:827
14 January 1983
Deed

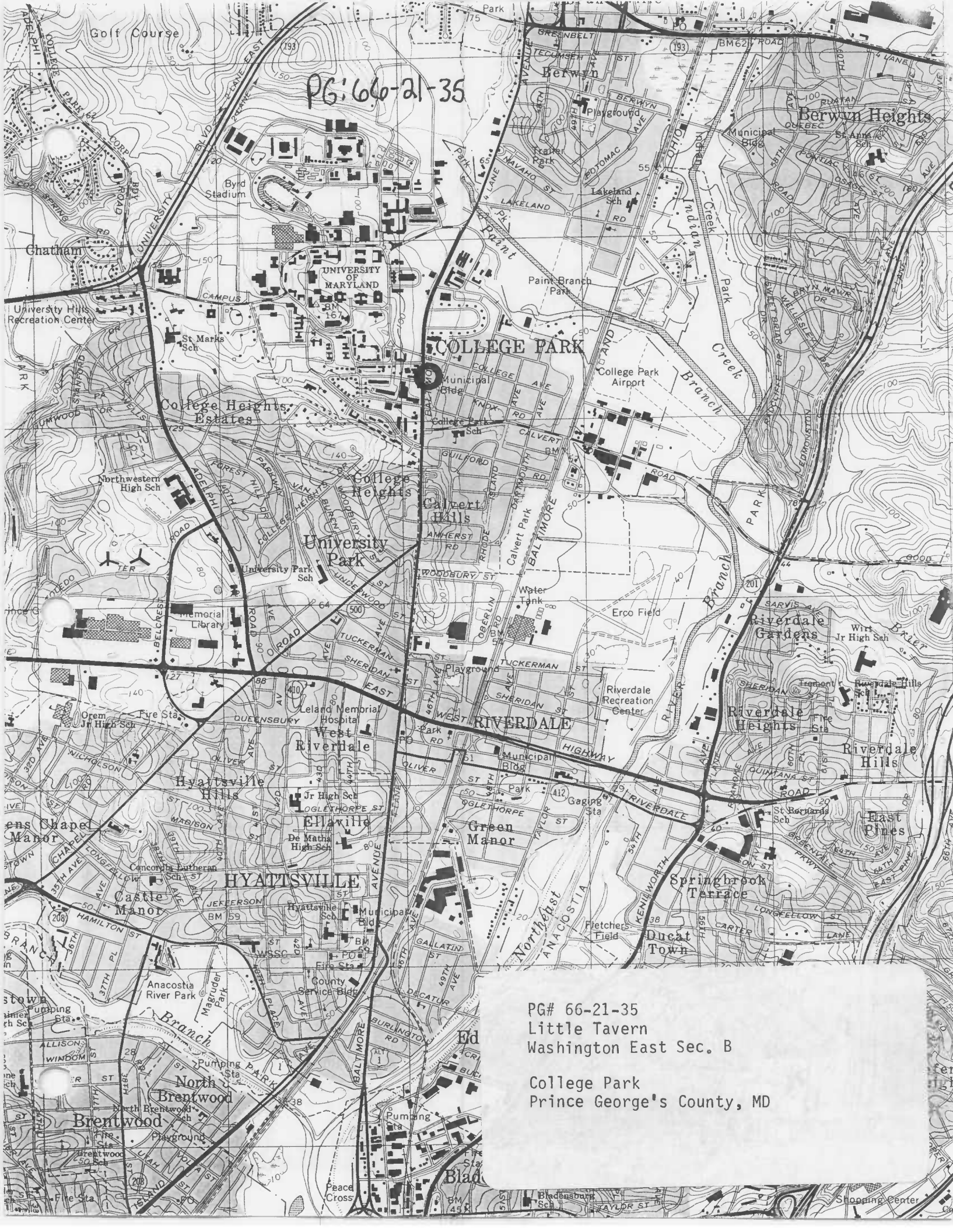
Ellen Byrd Jackson to Sterling J. Byrd. Grantor conveys .1481 acres, Lots 13-15, Block One, Hannah L. Kelly's subdivision of Blocks 12 and 28 of Johnson and Curriden's College Park Subdivision. Same obtained from Arthur C. Keefer, 6 January 1930, 353:251.

4376:770
1 June 1974
Deed

William K. Byrd and Harry C. Byrd, Jr. to Sterling J. Byrd via Ellen Byrd Jackson. Grantors convey Lots 13-15. Same obtained from Arthur C. Keefer, 6 January 1930, 353:251.

353:251
6 January 1930
Deed

Arthur C. Keefer to H. Clifton Byrd. Grantor conveys Lots 3, 4, 6, 8-25, Block 1.



PG: 66-21-35

PG# 66-21-35
Little Tavern
Washington East Sec. B

College Park
Prince George's County, MD



PG# 66-21-35

LITTLE TAVERN SHOPS, COLLEGE PARK
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER: B. RIVERS

APRIL, 1973

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

1/1